

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application for Patent of: Michael John and Sharianne John  
Docket No. 11059

Serial or Patent No.:

Filed or Issued: Herewith

For: Wooden Post Protective Sleeve

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**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled as described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith.

☐ application serial no.

filed

☐ patent no.

issued

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization

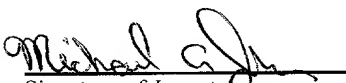
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

\*NOTE: *Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).*

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

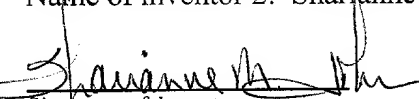
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Name of inventor 1: Michael John

Signature of Inventor 

Date: 7-19-2000

Name of inventor 2: Sharijanne John

Signature of Inventor 

Date: 7-19-2000

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE I DEPOSITED THIS PAPER OR FEE WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND THAT IT WAS ADDRESSED FOR DELIVERY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS & TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231 BY "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE.

Jeff Sausa

TITLE: Wooden Post Protective Sleeve

INVENTOR: Michael John and Sharianne John

DOC NO.: 11059

**APPLICATION**

**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**SPECIFICATION**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, MICHAEL JOHN AND SHARIANNE JOHN, citizens of the United States of America, have invented new and useful improvements in a WOODEN POST PROTECTIVE SLEEVE of which the following is a specification:

jc828 U.S. PTO  
08/14/00

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a wooden post protective sleeve and more particularly pertains to protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier.

The use of support devices for ground anchors is known in the prior art. More specifically, support devices for ground anchors heretofore devised and utilized for the purpose of providing support to ground anchors are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

By way of example, U.S. Patent Number 5,203,817 to Klumpjan discloses a fence post bracket capable of holding the post above ground level to provide complete drainage and minimize deterioration. U.S. Patent Number 5,720,134 to Kurtz discloses a structural support post with a plastic base to prevent rotting from moisture. U.S. Patent Number 5,733,613 to Baecker discloses a plastic sleeve for a wood pole to prevent deterioration.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objective and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not describe a wooden post protective sleeve for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole

in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier.

In this respect, the wooden post protective sleeve according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in doing so provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier.

Therefore, it can be appreciated that there exists a continuing need for a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which can be used for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier. In this regard, the present invention substantially fulfills this need.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of support devices for ground anchors now present in the prior art, the present invention provides an improved wooden post protective sleeve. As such, the general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which has all the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

To attain this, the present invention essentially comprises a collar having a generally rectangular configuration. The collar has an open upper end, a closed lower end, and four surrounding side walls. The open upper end is dimensioned for receiving the lower end of the wooden post therein. The four surrounding side walls each have an aperture therethrough downwardly of the open upper end. The apertures are dimensioned for receiving wood screws therethrough for engaging the lower end of the wooden post. The closed lower end has a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough. The drainage apertures include a central aperture and four corner apertures. The collar is fabricated of plastic.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the

invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which has all the advantages of the prior art support devices for ground anchors and none of the disadvantages.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which is of durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such a wooden post protective sleeve economically available to the buying public.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier.

Lastly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved wooden post protective sleeve including a collar having an open upper end, a closed lower end, and a surrounding side wall. The open upper end is dimensioned for receiving the lower end of the wooden post therein. The surrounding side wall has a plurality of apertures therethrough downwardly of the open upper end. The apertures are dimensioned for receiving wood screws therethrough for engaging the lower end of the wooden post. The closed lower end has a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough. The drainage apertures include a central aperture and four peripheral apertures. The collar is fabricated of plastic.



These together with other objects of the invention,  
along with the various features of novelty which characterize the  
invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims  
annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better  
5 understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the  
specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to  
the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there is  
illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the wooden post protective sleeve constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side cross-sectional view of the present invention illustrated in use.

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention.

The same reference numerals refer to the same parts through the various figures.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular, to figures 1 through 3 thereof, the preferred embodiment of the new and improved wooden post protective sleeve embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference number 10 will be described.

Specifically, it will be noted in the various figures that the device relates to a wooden post protective sleeve for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier.

The present invention is designed for use with a wooden post 12 that has a lower end 14 that is ordinarily positioned within a hole 16 that has been dug in a ground area 18. An upper end of the wooden post 12 normally supports an item, such as a mailbox, thereon. The wooden post 12 could also be a single component of a plurality of posts used to make up a fence.

The present invention is essentially comprised of a collar 20 having a generally rectangular configuration. The collar 20 has an open upper end 22, a closed lower end 24, and four surrounding side walls 26. The open upper end 22 is dimensioned for receiving the lower end 14 of the wooden post 12 therein. The four surrounding side walls 26 each have an aperture 28 therethrough downwardly of the open upper end 22. The apertures 28 are dimensioned for receiving wood screws 30 therethrough for engaging the lower end 14 of the wooden post 12.

The closed lower end 24 has a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough. The drainage apertures include a central aperture 32 and four corner apertures 34. The collar 20 is fabricated of plastic.

5 A second embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figure 3 and includes substantially all of the components of the present invention except that the wooden post 12 and the collar are each cylindrical instead of rectangular. It should be noted that the collar can be shaped to correspond with any shape of  
10 wooden post. The closed lower end 24 of the collar includes a central aperture 32 and four peripheral apertures 34.

In use, the hole 16 is dug within the ground area 18 that will accommodate the wooden post 12 and the collar 20. The collar 20 will not increase the dimensions of the post 12 a great deal. The collar 20 is quite thin and is anything but cumbersome. The lower end 14 of the post 12 is then positioned within the collar 20 leaving a small area between the lower end 14 of the post 12 and the closed lower end 24 of the collar 20. This will allow any accumulated water and moisture to exit the collar 20 and  
20 not have an adverse effect on the wooden post 12. The wood screws 30 are then positioned through the apertures 28 to engage the post 12. The post 12 can then be positioned within the hole 16 and filled to support the post 12 in an upright orientation. Note figure 2.

25 As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description.

Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and the manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by LETTERS PATENT of the United States is as follows:

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1. A wooden post protective sleeve for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier comprising, in combination:

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a collar having a generally rectangular configuration, the collar having an open upper end, a closed lower end, and four surrounding side walls, the open upper end being dimensioned for receiving the lower end of the wooden post therein, the four surrounding side walls each having an aperture therethrough downwardly of the open upper end, the apertures being dimensioned for receiving wood screws therethrough for engaging the lower end of the wooden post, the closed lower end having a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough, the drainage apertures including a central aperture and four corner apertures, the collar being

20

fabricated of plastic.

2. A wooden post protective sleeve for protecting a lower end of a wooden post from rotting while positioned within a hole in a ground area while also making insertion into and removal from the hole easier comprising, in combination:

25

a collar having an open upper end, a closed lower end, and a surrounding side wall, the open upper end being dimensioned

for receiving the lower end of the wooden post therein, the surrounding side wall having a plurality of apertures therethrough downwardly of the open upper end, the apertures being dimensioned for receiving wood screws therethrough for engaging the lower end of the wooden post, the closed lower end having a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough, the drainage apertures including a central aperture and four peripheral apertures, the collar being fabricated of plastic.

3. The wooden post protective sleeve as set forth in claim 2, wherein the collar and the wooden post each have a rectangular configuration.

4. The wooden post protective sleeve as set forth in claim 2, wherein the collar and the wooden post each have a cylindrical configuration.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A wooden post protective sleeve including a collar having an open upper end, a closed lower end, and a surrounding side wall. The open upper end is dimensioned for receiving the lower end of the wooden post therein. The surrounding side wall has a plurality of apertures therethrough downwardly of the open upper end. The apertures are dimensioned for receiving wood screws therethrough for engaging the lower end of the wooden post. The closed lower end has a plurality of drainage apertures therethrough. The drainage apertures include a central aperture and four peripheral apertures. The collar is fabricated of plastic.



Fig. 1

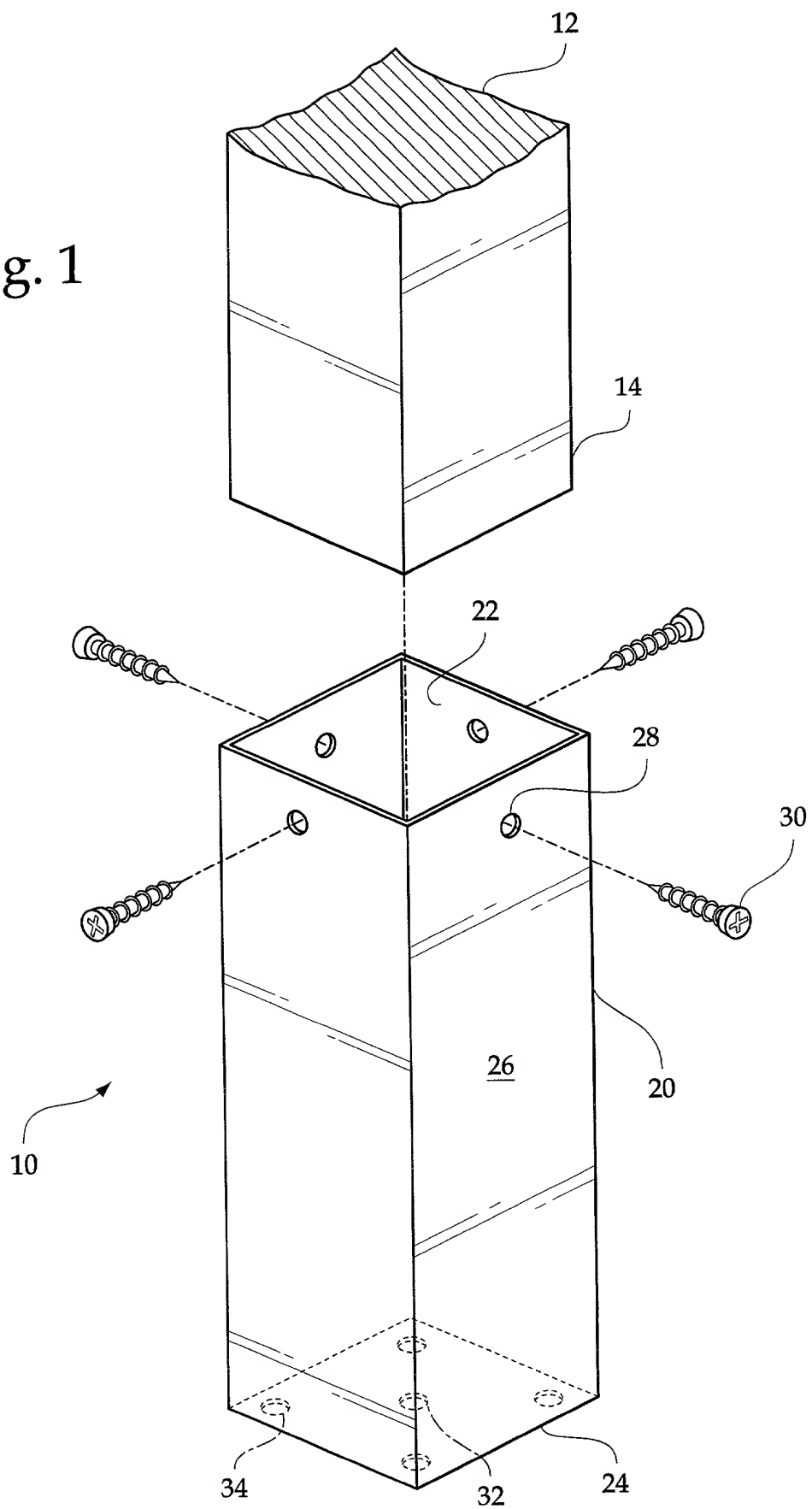
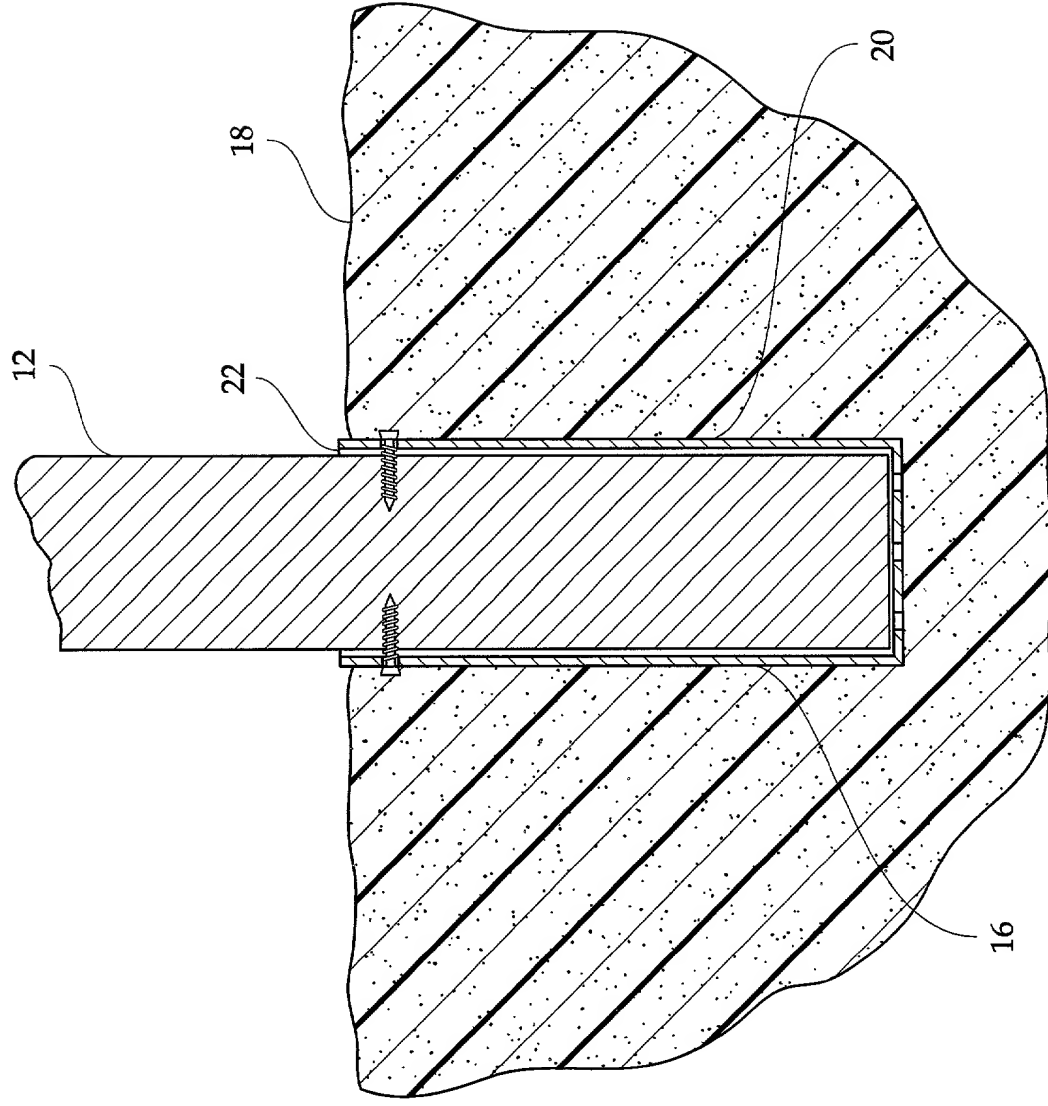


Fig. 2



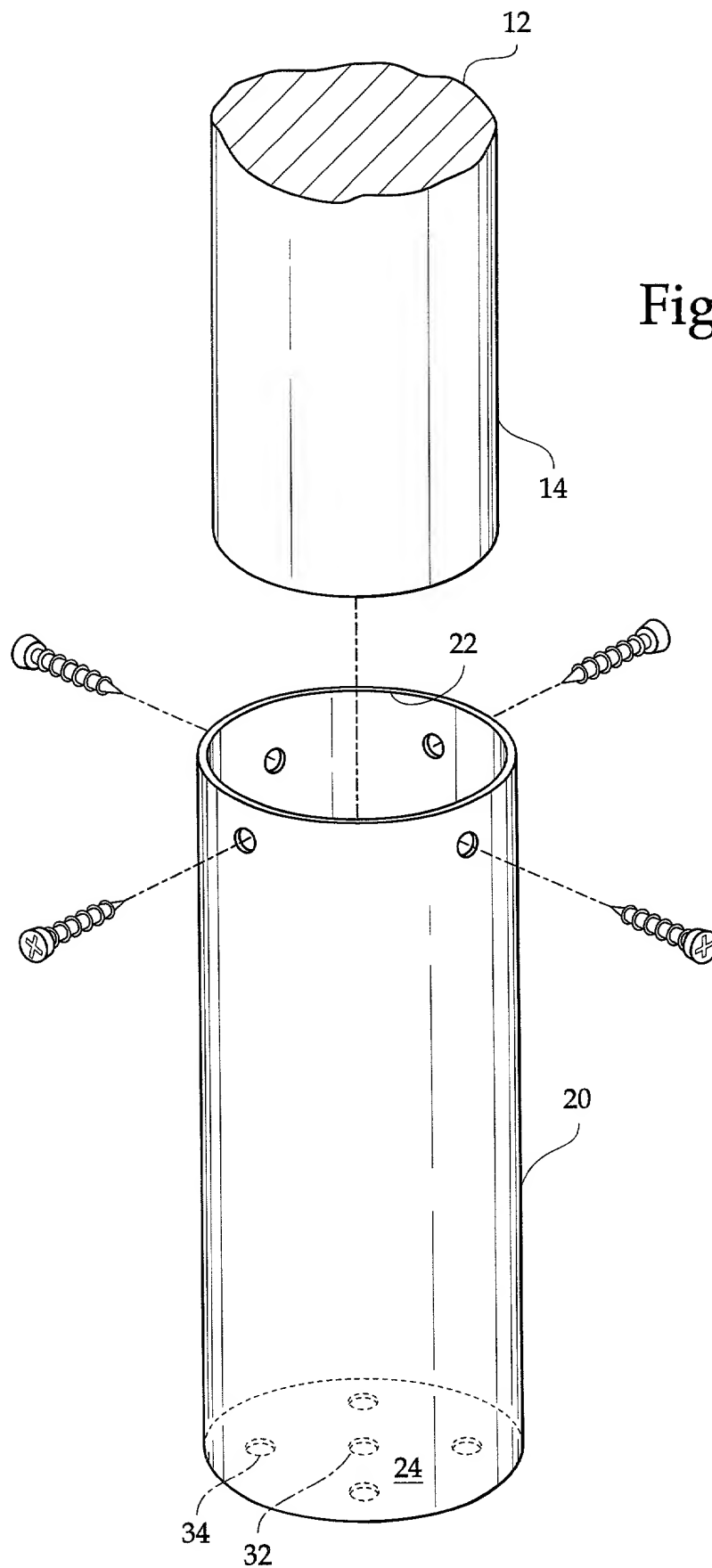


Fig. 3

**DECLARATION  
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
Original Application**

As one of the below named inventors I declare that the information given herein is true, that I believe that I am the original, first and joint inventor of the invention entitled:

Wooden Post Protective Sleeve

which is described and claimed in the attached specification;

that I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States of America except as identified below. I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:**

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following agent to prosecute this application, and transact all matters before the United States Patent and Trademark Office: Richard W. Goldstein, 2071 Clove Road, Staten Island, NY 10304, Reg. No. 36,527

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LAST NAME John FIRST NAME: Sharianne

CITY: Atascadero STATE: CA COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: USA

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 1:

Michael A. John

DATED:

7-19-2000

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 2:

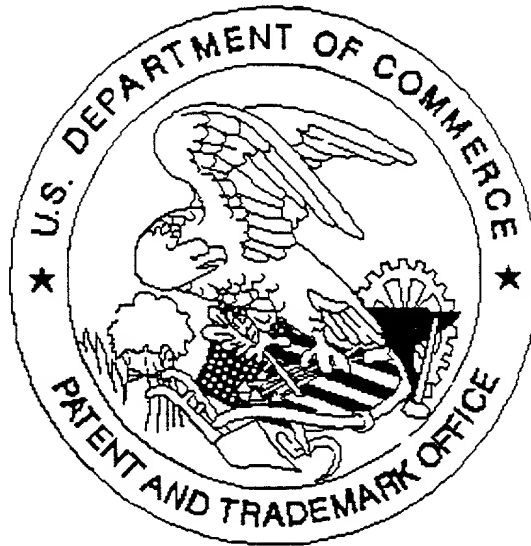
Sharianne M. John

DATED:

7-19-2000

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